

# North Mundham Parish Council

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December 2019

## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I suspect that, during the Christmas season, some of you will end up with enough accumulated rubbish or recycling to want to take it to the disposal site at Westhampnett. If you do go there, be aware that from 1 December 2019 you have to have proof that you are a resident of West Sussex before they will let you in – something such as a driving licence or a council tax or utility bill less than a year old.

I have just come back from another session with the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group doing more work on the route of the old canal. If anyone would like to join in, any help would be welcome either there or at Camic Pond. Get in touch with me and I should be able to tell you when the next work parties are due to meet.

When the Parish Council last met, one of the topics for discussion was the Open Gardens event. Although we had a successful event earlier this year, it is becoming increasingly difficult to reconcile the different views of those who open their gardens – some seek a purely local event for residents of the parish, whereas others would like to see wider publicity for an event aimed to raise funds for a charity of their choice. This can lead to a lot of administrative effort at the last minute, much of which falls on the Parish Clerk. Next year we anticipate that we will be very busy in the second and third quarters of the year with our Neighbourhood Plan, which also puts a heavy load on the Parish Clerk. We have therefore resolved that the Parish Council will not run the event next year. We have offered the opportunity to the Youth Group to take over the event, but it will be open to anyone to open their gardens, whether singly or as a group, for whatever purpose they choose.

I expect you will have seen news in the media about planting trees, and the benefits this might bring in alleviating global warming as well as making the environment more attractive and more welcoming to wildlife. In the past the Parish Council has been offered trees, but the Council owns no land and we have struggled to find places to plant them. But there are sources we can draw on to provide trees to enhance land in private ownership. This could be a site that is currently open land, or perhaps a hedge that would benefit from the addition of trees to help reinforce and support it. There are plans to add trees to the land next to the old canal. If you have any other ideas where we might plant additional trees please let me know, because I may be able to put you in touch with someone who could make it happen.

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